



Minuteman

February 2006

UPDATE

Massachusetts National
Guard bimonthly
newsletter for members,
families, and friends

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Recruiters set up shop in storefront

By Senior Airman James Regan, 102nd Fighter Wing



Left to right, Col. Paul Worcester, 102nd Fighter Wing commander; Brig. Gen. Oliver Mason, The Adjutant General, and Sen. Marc Pacheco, D-Taunton, jointly cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new recruiting office in the Jordan Plaza in East Wareham.

(Photo by Tech Sgt Sandra Niedzwiecki, 102nd FW.)

As part of ongoing efforts to increase visibility within the community, the 102nd Fighter Wing recruiting staff recently hosted the grand opening of its new off-base office.

Brig. Gen. Oliver Mason, The Adjutant General; Col. Paul Worcester, wing commander, and Sen. Marc Pacheco, D-Taunton, had the honors of cutting the blue and white ribbon that hung in front of the entrance to the Jordan Plaza.

Located on Cranberry Highway in East Wareham, the office provides the recruiters with easy access to the public without the standard security regulations that are in place at military bases. It also makes it easier for the public to contact

the recruiters.

After the grand opening ceremony, Master Sgt. Kevin Eccleston was approached by a man interested in joining the Air National Guard.

"He saw our sign and asked if I was a recruiter. We went upstairs (to my office) and talked for a little bit. He's our first walk-in recruit," said Eccleston.

With a welcome area, full-size conference room and four offices, the 1,410 square feet of rented space is being put to good use. The staff is responsible for finding men and women for the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 253rd Combat Communications Group.

Between September 2004 and October 2005, the recruiting team surpassed its goal of 90 recruits,

bringing a total of 96 into the Air National Guard. This occurred during a time when the Air National Guard fell short of its recruiting goals nationally.

"We had a great team anyway, but this will only enhance their efforts", said Senior Master Sgt. Pete Johnson, retention and recruiting superintendent for the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

The idea of moving out of Otis was originally brought up four years ago by state officials, but obtaining funding prolonged the process.

After surveying several locations close to Cape Cod in the fall of 2005, the newly constructed Jordan Plaza was selected soon thereafter. The office has been opened since November and everyone seems optimistic that it will improve on the already impressive numbers.

"I'm very excited for our recruiting staff and the wing ... to have them out among our community is great," added Lt. Col. Virginia Doonan, commander of the 102nd Mission Support Flight.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MILITARY BALL

Saturday, 25 February 2006

CHRISTINA'S

Two Washington Street, Route One
Foxboro, MA 02035

6:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Dress: Military Dress Blue/Mess Dress
or Class A w/White Shirt and Bow Tie
Civilian Semi Formal

Cost: \$60.00 per person – Cash Bar
Group Seating Available Upon Request

RSVP by Feb. 17, 2006

Tina Raymond
508-233-7240

Country's Eldest Guardsman Retires

Story by Pfc. James Deady, Massachusetts Army National Guard Public Affairs



Sgt. 1st Class Frederick A. Coe leads the Honor Guard during the half-time ceremony at Gillette Stadium (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Tedeschi.)

On January 18, 2006 Sgt. 1st Class Frederick A. Coe will retire from the Massachusetts Army National Guard after 41 years of military service.

Coe is a familiar face among employees of the Joint Force Headquarters Building in Milford where he serves as the Electronic Security System Manager.

Coe began his military career in 1963 when he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and served on active duty until 1967. He spent another two years as a citizen guardsman in the Coast Guard.

He worked on two icebreaker ships in his active service, the East Wind and later the Castle Rock, breaking through ocean ice in the North and South poles, and serving in Vietnam as an outer canal patrolman on a 182 foot patrol boat. Coe eventually joined the Coast Guard's Honor Guard unit.

His first detail in the Honor Guard was to carry the flag for the Coast Guard's 175th Anniversary celebrated in Grand Haven, Mich. Following the marching Honor Guards that day was then Governor of Mich. George Romney, father of present Governor Mitt Romney.

Coe took a break from the military after six years in the Coast Guard.

He reenlisted in 1974 and joined the 772nd Military Police Company, Massachusetts Army National Guard, which he retired from and reenlisted in 1996 with the 211th Military Police Battalion out of Lexington, Mass. He is also the 1st Sgt. of the MAARNG Ceremonial Unit.

Since enlistment into the MAARNG, Coe deployed on two combat operations including Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with six other soldiers from the MAARNG, and he was also among the first to serve in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today Coe is 62 and he believes he might be the country's oldest enlisted soldier in the National Guard. His last detail as an Honor Guardsman will be to present a flag to the son of George Romney, current Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney.

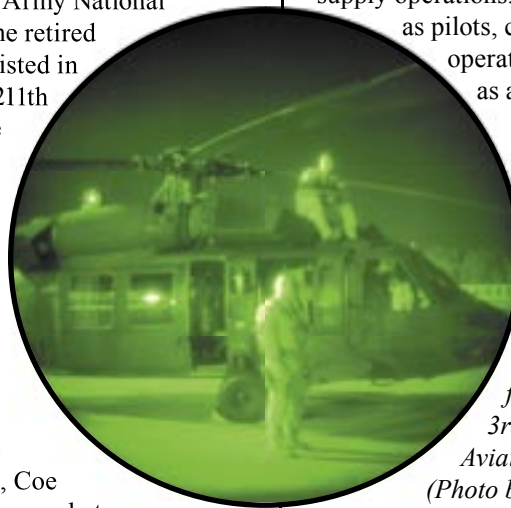
"Age is only a number; a soldier can't retire his experience. He must use it. Experience achieves more with less energy and time," said Coe.

Upon Coe's retirement he plans to remain at JFHQ as the Electronic Security Systems Manager, but as a civilian contractor.

Coe has five children and resides with his wife in East Bridgewater .

126th Aviation in Kuwait

Sgt. 1st Class L. Carin Smith, a member of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation from AASF I, Cape Cod, deployed last August in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit sent approximately 180 soldiers to Kuwait to operate and maintain UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopters for troop movement, medical evacuation and re-supply operations. The members serve as pilots, crew chiefs, vehicle operators and other duties as assigned.



Spc. Thaddeus Chaboir Jr. sits atop a UH-60 "Blackhawk" along with fellow soldier Staff Sgt. Brian T. Murphy. Both are from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation from Cape Cod.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carin Smith, A Company, 126th Aviation, Massachusetts Army National Guard.)

Calling All UPAR's

Okay all you UPAR's out there – we know there must be some interesting training events or personal stories happening in your unit – and we want to hear about them. Submit your unit stories and photos to MSG Pallas deBettencourt (pallas.debettencourt@us.army.mil) and you could see your name in the next issue of the Minuteman